THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. NREGA is demand driven and not allocation based programme. The Act was launched in 200 identified districts on 2.2.2006. For implementation of the Act in these 200 districts Rs.229256.70 were released out of the allocations made for National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) for the year 2005-06.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Funds are released to the districts, keeping in view the demand for work. The Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels are the principal authorities for implementation of the scheme. In terms of Section 16(5) of the Act at least 50% of the works in terms of costs are to be implemented through the Gram Panchayats.

National Centre for Excellence for Flourosis Mitigation, Gandhinagar

1811. SHRI KESHUBHAI S.PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given in principle approval for setting up the National Centre for Excellence for Flourosis Mitigation at Gandhinagar; and

(b) if so, the present status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Government has accorded approval for setting up of Regional Fluorosis Mitigation Centre at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The State Government of Gujarat has decided to upgrade the existing Gujarat Jal Seva Training Institute for this purpose. The Government of India in this regard has asked a detailed proposal from the State Government.

Land reforms in the country

1812. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land reform process was incomplete in all States in the country;

(b) if so, the States where land reforms completed fully as on date;

(c) the details of such reforms, State-wise;

(d) the States where land reforms are partially completed;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps being taken by Government to complete the land reforms in each State;

(g) whether Government had set any time-frame to complete these reforms; and

(h) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (h) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No.18 of State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in this field is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. However, implementation of land reforms programmes is reviewed from time to time at various fora, including Conferences of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States and UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. While the task of abolition of intermediary tenures and interests has been completed all over the country, the other aspects of the land reforms programmes, *viz.* tenancy reforms, distribution of ceiling surplus land, Government wasteland including Bhoodan land, special measures for protection of land of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, consolidation of holdings, etc, are continuing in the States.

As per the information received from the States, 125.85 lakh tenants have been conferred ownership rights or their rights are protected, covering an area of 167.16 lakh acres. On implementation of the land ceiling laws, an area of 68.91 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 60.53 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 50.34 lakh acres has been distributed to 54.05 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 16 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Government wasteland, and 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land, have been distributed to the eligible rural poor. Further, an area of 1739.01 lakh acres has been consolidated. An area of 4.18 lakh acres of alienated tribal land has been restored to the tribals.

Government of India has not set any time-frame for completion of land reforms in the country. However, the status of implementation of the land reforms schemes/ programmes was reviewed during the Conference of the Revenue Secretaries of the States and UTs held in New Delhi on 7th June, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development. The need for effective implementation of various components/schemes of land reforms was stressed in the Conference, so that the benefits reach the grass roots level. Thereafter, Minister (RD) had written to the Chief Ministers of the States for having a thorough review of the implementation of the land reforms programmes and schemes, so as to help in the planning and formulation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. They had been requested to conduct special drives for implementation of the land reforms programmes, including tenancy reforms; distribution of ceiling surplus land, Government wasteland and Bhoodan land, homestead land; prevention of alienation of tribal land and their restoration, so that the number of landless and homesteadless families in the country could be reduced. He had also separately written to the Chief Ministers for undertaking a special drive to get the court cases involving ceiling surplus lands disposed of, especially the cases pending in Revenue Courts on which State Govts. have control. They have also been requested to consider setting up of Land Tribunals under Article 323-B of the Constitution or Special Benches in the High Courts for speedy disposal of the pending cases.

Thus, the States are being pursued for vigorous implementation of land reforms.